

## SAVE OUR SOUTH CHANNEL LIGHTS, QUINN | EVANS ARCHITECTS, AND MIHM ENTERPRISES FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE SOUTH CHANNEL RANGE LIGHTS

Rehabilitation projects are never easy, but can you imagine rehabilitating a remote lighthouse? Without a dock? In the middle of the lake? Well, the people dedicated to preserving the South Channel Range Lights did just that.

Save Our South Channel Lights organized in 1989. This all-volunteer nonprofit organization quickly realized that it would take monumental cooperation to preserve the deteriorating South Channel Range Lights. Work on these lights has occurred over many years. In 2003-2004 Save Our South Channel Lights raised the money needed to stabilize the front light and build a seawall around the island on which it stands. The Department of History, Arts and Libraries awarded a Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Grant toward the development of plans and specifications for rehabilitation of the lights in 2002. From 2004 to 2008, the rear range light was rehabilitated with the assistance of a Clean Michigan Initiative grant from the Department of Environmental Quality. Rehabilitation included masonry work, replacement of the lantern, and the creation of a replica of the outer railing around the lantern.

This project represents the efforts of skilled professionals, like the contractors from Mihm Enterprises, as well as many volunteers who did manual labor as well as fund-raising. In addition to the high quality workmanship, the spirit of collaboration that imbued this project is noteworthy.

